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(54) **DIGITAL STILL CAMERA AND VIDEO CONFERENCE SYSTEM**

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To realize a video conference of high quality by automatically selecting a proper picture quality in accordance with the photographic condition to always transmit the most suitable picture.

SOLUTION: The inclination or the optical axis or a photographic lens is detected to detect the difference of the photographic condition. When a normal speaker 65 is photographed, a photographic lens 61a of a digital still camera 61 is arranged approximately in parallel with the horizontal face. When a document 68 or the like is photographed, the photographic lens 61a of the digital still camera 61 is held approximately perpendicularly. Consequently, a detection means 61b like a mercury switch which detects the inclination of the optical axis of the photographic lens 61a is incorporated. An inclination detection means 22 is the same and inputs inclination data to a sub-microcomputer 18, and a main microcomputer 10 of a switching means discriminates which picture mode the picture data should be outputted in. In the discriminated picture mode, picture data is stored in a picture storage memory 12 or

a PC card connected to a PC card bus 14 is transferred to a personal computer connected to an external serial port 17.

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